



## Statement on Going Dark Brasil

The advent of the Internet and digital communications has transformed the global economy and enriched civil society. Democratic nations place a high value on personal rights and privacy, and support the role of encryption technologies in protecting those rights in this digital age. In these countries, law enforcement access to the information of private citizens—whether in their homes, personal effects, or devices—is an exceptional circumstance that occurs only pursuant to the rule of law and due process.

Unfortunately, criminals and terrorists increasingly exploit these recent technological advances. Personal electronic devices and communications applications are created without adequate consideration of public safety consequences; they therefore impede access to evidence critical to thwarting serious crimes and national security threats. This poses pervasive, difficult, and sometimes insurmountable obstacles to the ability of public safety authorities to prevent violence, protect victims, and prosecute criminals.

This issue is not just a law enforcement problem but a mutual responsibility for all stakeholders, including providers of hardware, software, and communications services. Democratic governments are always willing to work with stakeholders to meet public safety responsibilities; in particular, law enforcement agencies in these countries need providers to better assist with the execution of lawful orders.

The participants of the Symposium Going Dark Brazil, which occurred in Brasília on 11-12 February 2019, recognize this as a pressing international concern. The increasing gap between the lawful authorization to timely obtain vital evidence, and the technological challenges to doing so, is a complex problem requiring urgent and sustained international attention. Without such an effort, we collectively risk eroding the rule of law that is vital to democratic society.

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